

MRS. RISCH

ENGLISH 8

2019-20



We read to know
we are not alone

JR. HIGH PHILOSOPHY

What do you THINK?
T.H.I.N.K - Thoughtful, Helpful,
Inquisitive, Necessary, Kind

OFFICE HOURS

3:20 - 3:50PM (M-F)

CONTACT ME

My website is available
under the *Academics* tab of
the JA secondary website

krisch@jajags.com*

*I typically respond to email within 24 hours.
If you need emergency help on an assignment,
Check the website and ask your classmates
first, but I will try to help if I see your question in time.

ON THE WEB

In English, we use a few
supplementary websites:

- NoRedink for grammar
- Vocabulary.com for vocabulary
- Turnitin for GOAL Fair



RULES & POLICIES

GRADES

Grades in English are weighted. You can check your grades at any time using Infinite Campus

35%	35%	30%
Papers & Projects	Participation & Work	Tests & Quizzes

LATE WORK & RETAKES

HOMWORK: Late homework is accepted for 50% of the original score. (See back page for more info)

TESTS & QUIZZES: Tests scoring below 85% can be redone for a chance at a higher score after a conference with Mrs. Risch.

TECHNOLOGY



We will use Google Classroom. Be sure to check it daily for assignment resources and reminders and announcements about assignments and other class activities.



Please bring your devices daily. We have a limited number of chromebooks for use in the event of forgotten or uncharged devices. Students abusing work time on devices will forfeit the right to technology and will work by hand.



Cell phones will be placed in Phone daycare daily. Devices who don't attend day care will be sent to the office.

MATERIAL

Middle School is an excellent time for building organizational strategies & habits. Bringing the he following tools to class daily will help keep you organized:

- Planner (supplied by JA)
- Loose leaf paper (college rule)
- 1"-2" Binder for ELA notes or returned work
- Spiral Notebook for daily Warm-Ups
- Varied colors of pens, pencils, & highlighters
- Sticky Notes

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS CLASS

English is an important skill for every person! I believe that writing well and reading well gives people the tools they need to succeed in life. Junior high is an important time to learn to self-advocate, organize, and plan ahead. We work hard to hone these skills in junior high, and so it is important to utilize all the strategies presented to you and to talk to me if you have questions! Every student matters and is completely capable of success in this course.

Students interested in Honors may complete the Honors Portfolio to earn Honors credit at the end of the semester.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Attendance & Absences

Attendance is crucial to your success. If you are absent, please check the website for the assignments from the day(s) you missed.

- Attendance is taken the first 5 minutes of class. Repeated tardiness will result in parent contact and detention.
- You have two days for each day absent to make up work. After that point, it will be counted as Late.
- Work due on the date of an absence should be turned in first thing upon your return.

Behavior & Attitude

Your education is a privilege, and any disruptive or inappropriate behavior leads to others losing out on learning opportunities.

- Be respectful to the teacher and other students.
- Be in your seat when the bell rings with your material for class.
- Come prepared with assigned work completed. Failure to do homework will lead to you falling behind.
- No bullying or inappropriate or offensive language will be tolerated.

Late Work & Grades

- Missing work will be accepted for late credit until the end of the Unit it is from (Ex: No To Kill A Mockingbird accepted once Short Stories have begun).
- Late & Absent work must be submitted to the Late/Absent box and labelled "Late" or "Absent"
- Late & Missing work is updated Thursday mornings before Eligibility.
- Work due during a student absence will be marked with an "a" for Absent-- this is not a 0, just a friendly reminder that the work is still due.
- If an assignment has a long-term deadline, I do not offer extensions.
- I do not offer extra credit.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Each unit includes short stories, non-fiction articles, and a Medium Constructed Response

1st Quarter

- Re-establishing classroom procedures and year-long skills
- Advice Column
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*

2nd Quarter

- Short Story Unit
- Holocaust Stories

3rd Quarter

- *Animal Farm*
- GOAL Fair

4th Quarter

- GOAL Fair Presentations
- *Twelfth Night*

Final Exam

Each semester will have a final exam. It will be cumulative, and the May final will incorporate information from both semesters.

GOAL Fair is...

a Capstone research essay that we will work to construct throughout the entire school year, beginning with developing a question on an individualized topic, all the way through the first drafting and final drafting process. Rumors abound, and this project sounds hard, but if you stick with the schedule I provide, it will go smoothly. Promise.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is copying or using someone else's work without giving credit. It is a form of cheating and carries serious consequences, including plagiarized work receiving a permanent 0%.

